

LESSON FOR THE LETTER CARRIERS

Dismissal of Kellar and Cunningham Teaches an Important One.

MUST NOT BE TOO ACTIVE.

May Not Attempt to Influence Legislation—New and Interesting Christmas Story.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—The postoffice department in dismissing from the postal service the heads of the two great associations of letter carriers, acting under the direct orders of the president, has shown clearly that "pernicious political activity" will not be tolerated among employees in the service of Uncle Sam. President Kellar of the National Association of Letter Carriers, did not have time to resign if that course had ever been his intention after receiving the ultimatum of Mr. Bristow, the fourth assistant postmaster general, that he should show cause within three days why he should not be removed from office for insubordination. In a large sense this same condition applied to Frank H. Cunningham, of South Omaha, president of the National Association of Rural Carriers, who was removed from the service for violation of the president's order of Jan. 31, 1902, which forbids any employee of the government, or any association of such employees, attempting to influence legislation by any character or for any purpose or to solicit increases of pay for their services as such employees.

The postoffice department has always been ready to receive the heads of the Letter Carriers' association, and of rural carriers and listen to any suggestion they might desire to make regarding the interests of the carriers in both these branches. This courtesy was assumed to be due the carriers and their representatives and every facility has been given them for the presentation of their requests to the department. Now that Kellar is not a member of the postal service it follows that the department cannot receive him as the representative of the carriers. According to the constitution of the Letter Carriers' association the office of president must be filled by some person who is in the active employ of the government. The dismissal of Kellar from the service therefore not only creates a vacancy in the office of president, but minimizes his standing before the department. It would therefore appear that the only way out of this difficulty is to elect some one else to the position of president of the Letter Carriers' association who is in good standing with the postoffice department or else change that clause of the constitution which provides that a president must be in the active service of the postoffice department as a letter carrier.

The department holds that the carriers cannot by any act of any association of their own creation demand that a representative be received unless he is an employee of the service. The humblest carrier would be received at the department if he went there with a view to promoting the interests of his associates and his call was in accordance with official precedence.

In the case of Mr. Cunningham conditions are somewhat different. So far as can be ascertained the constitution of the National Rural Carriers' association differs from the Letter Carriers' association in that it does not provide that the president must be an employee of the government. If this be true, Mr. Cunningham can still serve his association as president, unless the department should decide not to receive the president of the Rural Carriers' association because he was not a governmental employee. Whether the department will go to this length is a question. Many congressmen have seen the postoffice authorities and have laid before the fourth assistant postmaster general letters from rural carriers seeking to pledge these same congressmen to vote for increase pay for the rural carriers, with threats that in the event of their being antagonistic to such increase they would be "murdered."

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

There is a short Christmas story of a year ago which has not yet found its way into print. During the Civil war Gen. James W. Wadsworth, father of the member of Congress of that name, was in command of a division of Union troops at the battle of the Wilderness. He had carried with him, from his home in Genesee, a camp outfit which contained a silver fork and spoon, and a knife. The table implements he used daily and just before the fight in which he was killed he had eaten his dinner, using the table necessities. His "striker" or body servant was engaged in clearing the mess table when the noise of Gen. Wadsworth's shooting was received. The "striker" was a New York soldier, who realized that the table appliances last used by Gen. Wadsworth ought to be preserved for his relatives. He carefully packed them up and carried them back with him to his home in central New York. Years after the close of the war he told the county clerk of his home county that he had them and that he would like to restore them to the relatives of the general. The county clerk took charge of them and forgot all about his trust until a year ago last summer. Then meeting Representative Dwight of his own district, he mentioned the incident and said that the Wadsworths ought to have the silverware back again. Dwight took to the idea at once, but decided to wait a short time before returning the articles to the rightful owner. This he did last Christmas and it is doubtful if the congressman received anything on that occasion which he prizes so highly as the fork, knife and spoon which were used by his father at the battle of the Wilderness 40 years ago.

QUEER IDEAS OF HOSPITALS.

"People without experience have some very queer ideas about hospitals," said a recent patient in an institution of that kind. "One of the commonest ideas, and one very wide of the mark, is that when one goes to the hospital as a patient occupying a private room, he needs nothing further, everything being provided by the institution."

Because of sickness and accidents I have had to put into hospitals at various times for repairs or recuperation, and so have come to know a good deal about the ways and methods of these beneficent institutions. To a patient occupying a private room a hospital can be more nearly likened to a hotel with a free medical department attached than anything else I can think of.

"At the same time there is thrown about the occupant of the private room in a hospital, as well as about the occupant of a cot in the general ward, a restraint that is absent in a hotel and which is even faintly suggestive of a jail. You cannot enter a hospital at will, nor can you leave it wholly at your own pleasure, as you can with a hotel. The hospital authorities exercise a certain necessary discretion as to the admission of patients, pay as well as free, and also as to their leaving. It frequently happens that a patient, tired of the monotony of hospital life, wants to leave before he should. He usually finds that some essential part of his street apparel, his shoes, or his coat, is missing. This is one way by which he is detained from going out too soon. Besides, the hospital exits are all kept fastened, so that no one can get out, any more than come in, without the knowledge of those in charge.

"I recall a case in point. A patient had had some ribs cracked. After a few weeks he thought he was well enough to go out, and he certainly was very weary of his indoor life. He was a pay patient, but his own family did not want him to take any chance by

ly in favor of the re-election of Senator Depew.

Regarding who would be present at the conference, Senator Platt said: "Republicans who are interested in the election of a United States senator—men from different parts of the state. I shall not turn anybody away. I want to find out where we stand, and I propose getting to the bottom of the matter."

Gov. Odell was mistaken, Senator Platt said, if he believed that Black would have a majority in the legislature. "He has not even a majority of the representatives," he said.

When asked how Gov.-elect Higgins stood on the question of the re-election, Senator Platt replied that he did not know, but that he expected to be

Marquise des Monniers Merinville



The marquise, who was Miss Mary Gwendolin Caldwell of New York, has started the world with her renunciation of the Catholic church, and closely following this comes the announcement that she has suffered a stroke of paralysis.

going out too early. It was on a Thursday he first insisted he was well enough to go out. It was on the following Thursday that he was discharged. He had been detained a week beyond his wishes; yet it was done in such a way he could have no just cause for complaint.

"It surprises some people to learn that a hospital does not do free laundering for its patients any more than a hotel does for its guests. But it's a fact. The patient must pay for whatever laundering he has done. The hospital provides where necessary night shirts, and usually slippers—at least when the patient is denied his shoes—and some sort of light lounging garment in lieu of the coat, where it is withheld. In spite of this, however, the patient should take with him everything he will need. He should pack his valise precisely as if he were going on a journey. He should provide himself also with a little money outside his hospital expenses. He will need it for newspapers, cigars (if he smokes), postage stamps, the barber, and the like. Every hospital is a little world in itself, differing in some degree from every other similar institution. What I have said, however, is general and applies to all hospitals."

NEW YORK SENATORSHIP.

Senator Platt Calls a Conference To Consider the Matter.

New York, Dec. 19.—Senator Thomas C. Platt has called a conference of Republicans to meet in the Fifth Avenue hotel on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock to take measures for the re-election of Senator Depew. More than 50 invitations have been issued to leaders and legislators.

Senator Platt says that this conference is called largely for the purpose of neutralizing the effect of the recent conference at which Gov. Odell and many other prominent Republicans were present, and which showed itself strongly in favor of Frank S. Black's candidacy.

When asked tonight whether he had invited Gov. Odell to consult with him, Senator Platt replied: "Of course, I have not done so. The governor is backing the other man."

Senator Platt said that he had visited Wall street today and consulted with a very large number of prominent Republicans, all of whom, he said, he had found to be enthusiastic-

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Of the unfortunate persons who suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, flatulency, biliousness, constipation, kidney troubles or sleeplessness, why don't you try the Bitters. Its record of cures surely proves its value. Then it is also unequalled in cases of Chills, Colic or Malaria. Get a bottle today from your Druggist, also ask for a free copy of our 1905 Almanac. It contains much that will interest you.

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STOMACH BITTERS

Hazelnut Brand Butter.

For five cents per pound we guarantee you will never have any bad butter. It costs only this much more than other brands to get this guarantee, but gives you the best butter made. It costs but a little per meal; why not have the best?

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Through a committee the president has already made an investigation of the matter, and it is not unlikely that pumping passage. The rules provided for the Pima Indians to supply them with sufficient water for all purposes. These pumping stations were situated in connection with the irrigation plants which are being put in under direction of the government.

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If your bread is made from

SMITH'S FLOUR

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